

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 15, 17-18, 21-24, 27-29, 32 and 34.

No new matter has been entered. A copy of all pending claims and a status of each claim are provided below.

Listing of Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) A two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
  - a) a first component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
  - b) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction; and
  - c) adhesive for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second adhesive-backed anchoring member and adhesive for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first adhesive-backed anchoring member, the attachment of the one or more first and second connecting members to the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members ~~forming form~~ attached and bridging portions of the one or more first and second connecting members, such that the attached portions being are attached to an the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring member, members, and the bridging portions ~~spanning span the over-~~ over the laceration area between the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members, wherein:
    - i) the adhesive is applied to at least a portion of a lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members, such that the one or more first and second connecting members each have a width that

- is substantially greater than their thickness; and
- ii) ~~the lower surface of the bridging portion contains less adhesive than the attached portion; and~~
  - iii) the lower surface of the bridging portion is substantially free of the adhesive.
- 2) (Cancelled)
- 3) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 further comprising a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.
- 4) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the pulling elements and the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.
- 5) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of the one or more first and second connecting members are removable following application of the device.
- 6) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members.
- 7) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members.
- 8) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 4 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.

- 9) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 which is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 10) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein ~~the adhesive-backed surface of each anchoring member is~~ the adhesive applied to the portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members is protected by one or more release liners, ~~and the adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member is~~ as well as protected by one or more release liners.
- 11) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 10 wherein the one or more release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 12) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 1 ~~11~~ wherein the ~~adhesive-backed surfaces of the first and second anchoring members each are~~ adhesive applied to the portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members is protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting ~~adhesive-backed surfaces~~ the adhesive along the edge from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the ~~adhesive-backed surfaces~~ the adhesive along ~~the a~~ a length of the edge of the respective adhesive-backed anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend.
- 13) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 12 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 14) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 12 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 15) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the first and

second adhesive-backed anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.

- 16) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 17) (Currently Amended) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.
- 18) (Currently Amended) A method for closing a laceration or incision, the method comprising:
  - a) providing a two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
    - i) a first component comprising ~~an~~ a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
    - ii) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction; and
    - iii) adhesive means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second adhesive-backed anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first adhesive-backed anchoring member, the attachment of the one or more first connecting members and the one or more second connecting members to the second and first anchoring members, respectively, forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more first and second connecting members, the attached portions being attached to ~~an~~ the respective first and second adhesive-backed anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and

second adhesive-backed anchoring members, wherein:

- (1) the adhesive is applied to at least a portion of a lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members, such that the one or more first and second connecting members each have a width that is substantially greater than their thickness; and
  - (2) ~~the lower surface of the bridging portion contains less adhesive than the attached portion; and~~
  - (3) the lower surface of the bridging portion is substantially free of adhesive[.];
- b) attaching the first and second components to ~~the~~ at least a portion of skin on opposite sides of the laceration or incision, the edge of the first and second components from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend being the edge closest to the laceration or incision;
  - c) closing the laceration or incision by adjusting ~~the~~ a position of the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members relative to each other in both an X and a Y dimension; and
  - d) fixing the relationship between the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members established in step c) by attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second adhesive-backed anchoring member, and the one or more second connecting members to the ~~second~~ first adhesive-backed anchoring member.
- 19) (Cancelled)
- 20) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the device further comprises a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.
- 21) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling elements and

the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.

- 22) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling elements and extensions of the one or more first and second connecting members are removable following application of the device.
- 23) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members.
- 24) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members.
- 25) (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 26) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the device is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 27) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein the ~~adhesive-backed surface of each anchoring member is~~ adhesive applied to the portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members is protected by one or more release liners, and the ~~adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member~~ adhesive applied to the portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members is protected by one or more release liners.
- 28) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 27 wherein the one or more release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 29) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18 ~~28~~ wherein the ~~adhesive-backed~~

surfaces adhesive applied to the portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members of the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members each are protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting ~~adhesive-backed surfaces~~ the adhesive along the edge from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the ~~adhesive-backed surfaces~~ the adhesive along ~~the~~ a length of the edge of the respective adhesive-backed anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend.

- 30) (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 31) (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 32) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.
- 33) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 34) (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.